

INTERROGATION OF

MATSUOKA, Yosuke

Date and Time: 15 March 1946, 1400 -- 1620 hours.

Present: MATSUOKA, Yosuke  
Lt. Comdr. John D. Shea, USNR, Interrogator  
Miss Clara B. Knapp, Stenographer

Place: SUGAMO Prison, Tokyo, Japan

Interrogation conducted in English.  
Questions by Comr. Shea.

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Q. When you became Foreign Minister, someone took the initiative to suggest that the Tripartite Alliance be entered into. Is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Who took the initiative in this case, as far as your government was concerned?

A. When the second KONOYE Cabinet was to be formed, it was agreed upon between Premier KONOYE, myself, General TOJO -- the War Minister.

Q. General TOJO was War Minister?

A. Yes, and Admiral YOSHIDA, Minister of the Navy, that we should establish closer relations with Germany.

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Q. Oh, I see, at the time conversations were taking place concerning the formation of this Prince KONOYE Cabinet?

A. Second Prince KONOYE Cabinet.

Q. The one in which you became Foreign Minister?

A. Yes.

Q. It was previously decided that action should be taken -- will you repeat that again? --- to bring about closer relations with Germany?

A. Of drawing us closer to Germany.

Q. Let us say then a proposed plan of how to draw Japan closer to cooperation with Germany.

A. To enter into some sort of agreement, but it doesn't mention any sort of alliance, much less a military alliance.

Q. Now, can you say upon whose suggestion these two gentlemen made this draft?

A. Well, I think they were directed by the Minister of the Navy and Minister of War.

Q. Oh, I see, they were not themselves either the Minister of War or Navy.

A. They were directed by their superiors.

Q. Were you present when this first draft was submitted?

A. Yes, it was handed to me through, I think the chief of the bureau in charge of those affairs, and through the Vice Minister.

Q. In any event, this draft came to you through the military members of the cabinet?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, did you examine this draft?

A. I examined it. I took many days.

Q. Do you recall now what, in substance, was the nature of it?

A. It was substance of, well all I can say is that it was to enter into an agreement drawing Japan closer to Germany, but not in alliance on any military arrangement. That is all I can say. So, after studying the draft I began my questions to Germany and then Stahmer came and we discussed it.

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Q. Oh, I see, Now, can you remember any single part of this draft, so that you could elaborate on the theory at least, that these people had? To bring close is so relative a term. We have no understanding what was meant by it.

A. At this date, I don't recollect any particular articles on the subject.



A. They were included.

Q. No. Did this general and this admiral from the War and Navy Departments, did they present this proposed draft or agreement with Germany before the cabinet was actually formed, or afterwards?

A. That was sometime after the cabinet was formed.

Q. Was there any indication in this conference before the cabinet was formed, that the military were going to make such a proposal to the Cabinet when it was formed?

A. No, they never informed us.

Q. Was it not considered a bit unusual that the War and Navy Ministers should send other parties to the cabinet to represent a desire and a draft of this type.

A. No, in those days the chief of the bureau concerned with the particular affair in mind --- he was constantly in conference with these men.

Q. Now, General TOJO was the Minister of War in that cabinet?

A. Yes.

.....

JPS Dec, No 2898

昭和二十一年三月十五日、自十時五十分至十二時

[illegible]

場所... 日本、東京、皇宮、御所  
説問ハ其語ニ行ハル。シテ少佐 説問

吳昌碩

書下外務大臣三就任之時 體之三國同盟  
又此等問題又不少矣 體之三國同盟

2/10, 2/10, 2/10

身下，故其國之政，亦必如是。此其意也。  
身下，故其國之政，亦必如是。此其意也。  
身下，故其國之政，亦必如是。此其意也。

(2)

附註：此(圖)之(原)本，在(德)國。

1/10/19

[illegible]

空手道

[illegible]

2/21

陳永年 王德安 王德全 王德興

30

4000 = 4000 + 1000 = 5000

1/2

1-2-3-4

५८

[illegible]

2/10

5000

13

一就そのハ詳細ニ検討せしむるか



答、吾々ヲ独逸ニ一層緊密ニ接近セルコトノ。

問、ソレデハ独逸トノ協力ニ日本ヲ一層緊密ニ接近サセ  
ルオ法ノ提案トミヒマセウ。

答、或種ノ協定ハルニ爲ニ然レソトハ如何ナル同盟モ述  
ベテ居リマセン。然レヤ軍事ノ同盟ヲヤ。

問、所テ誰ノ示唆デコノ二人カコノ案ヲ作ツタリ云ヘ  
マスカ？

答、ソウデスネ。海軍大臣ト陸軍大臣ニ指示セタト思ヒス  
問、ア、ナリマシタ。彼等二人ハ本人ガ陸軍大臣デモ海軍

大臣デモナカツタデスネ。

答、彼等ハ上司カラ指示セタデス。

問、コノ最初ノ案ガ提出セタ時、アタクハ居リマシタカ？

答、居リマシタ。我等ノコトヲ担当ノ局長ト私思ヒマス。

ヲ通ジ、又次官ヲ通ジテソレハ私ニ午渡サシマシタ。

問、兎ニ角、此ノ案ハ内閣ノ軍部大臣ヲ通ジテ貴下ニ

渡ツタデスネ？

答、ソウデス。

問、サテ、貴下ハコノ案ヲ調べマシタカ？

答、調べマシタ。毎日モカリマシタ。

問、ソノ性質ハ大体何デアリタリ今思ヒ出シマスカ？

答、ソノ趣旨ハソウデスネ。私ノ云ヒ得ルニトハ日本ヲ

一層緊密ニ独逸ニ接近サセル協定ニ加入スルコトデ

アットエフコトデス。然レ同盟トカ軍事的取極

トカエフモノデハアリマセン。私ノ云ヒ得ルコトハソレガデ

デス。ソレデ案ヲ研究シテ後、私ハ独逸ニ於テ質問ヲ  
始メマシタ。ソレカラ「スターマ」ガ案ヲ吾々ハ之ヲ議論  
シマシタ。

向、介リマシタ。所テ、少クモ之等ノ人ガ持ッテ居タ持論  
ヲアナタガモットヨク説明出来ル様ニコノ案ハ唯一  
部分デモ思ヒ出セマスカ。接近サセルト云フコトハ如何  
ニモ相対的ナリ。案デス。ドウ云フ意味カ吾々ニハ  
介リマセン。

答、今日デハコノ問題ニ付テ、何モ特定ノ條文ハ思ヒ  
起セマセン。

問、貴下ノ地位カラ公式ニ、或ハ内閣顧問ノ一人デア  
ッタコトカラアナタノ以前ニ知ッテ居タコト、或ハ  
一市民トシテアナタノ得タダラウ知識カラ、独逸  
政府トコウ云フ協定、或ハコウ云フ接近ヲ爲スベ  
キデアルト近衛内閣ニ示唆スル様、向ガ軍部  
ヲ刺激シタカラ云フコトが出来マスカ。

答、當時私ハ聞イテ居リマシタ。ソシテ實際、私ハ陸軍  
省及ビ海軍省カ外交ニロラ出シテ居ルヲ見マシ  
タ。ソコデ私ハ大臣ニ就任スルヤ否ヤソレト駁  
ヒ始メマシタ。向ノ役ニモ立チマセンデシタ。

問、言葉ヲ換ヘレバ、貴オハ彼等ガ外交ニ於テ外  
務省ノ権限ヲ侵害シテ居タム考ヘタデスカ。

答、確カニ。



前、大寶元六年四月、年より十数年間已奉、軍部又、軍  
部、部に就て、部が成り、部を定むるなり、部は、部の  
部、部に就て、部が成り、部を定むるなり、部は、部の

同答、  
ヤウ美夫、

卷五 左傳時又不可不讀前子長以文又不後定際  
二國之公又不可不讀部不為師長矣福此責三  
六三然則天下之戰必自是始矣大勢合隨向風  
音肩其非常也

同業公會  
 同人等  
 同人等  
 同人等  
 同人等

問 所問實際 = 組織 + 努力 + 配置 即ち、  
上は、組織 + 配置 + 努力 又ハ關係が取 = V  
下は、努力 + 配置 + 組織 又ハ關係が取 = V  
又、

同。三、四、五、六、七、八、九、十、十一、十二、十三、十四、十五、十六、十七、十八、十九、二十、二十一、二十二、二十三、二十四、二十五、二十六、二十七、二十八、二十九、三十、三十一、三十二、三十三、三十四、三十五、三十六、三十七、三十八、三十九、四十、四十一、四十二、四十三、四十四、四十五、四十六、四十七、四十八、四十九、五十、五十一、五十二、五十三、五十四、五十五、五十六、五十七、五十八、五十九、六十、六十一、六十二、六十三、六十四、六十五、六十六、六十七、六十八、六十九、七十、七十一、七十二、七十三、七十四、七十五、七十六、七十七、七十八、七十九、八十、八十一、八十二、八十三、八十四、八十五、八十六、八十七、八十八、八十九、九十、九十一、九十二、九十三、九十四、九十五、九十六、九十七、九十八、九十九、一百。

同答、公。  
 廿五、貴方、御判断、武蔵、將軍、御指圖、が  
 二提、由、ラ、テ、バ、御、筆、が、組、閣、下、の、會議、ニ、由  
 席、ニ、於、テ、二、十、十、ノ、テ、又、ハ、ト、モ、ノ、後、コト、ニ、及、ル。本章  
 案、ニ、コト、ヲ、私、ニ、之、ヲ、展、示、ス。

答、彼等、含み居たり。

問、否此、陸軍省及び海軍省カラ、將軍ト提督ガ、  
彼等ガ此、提議セリ草案或ハ「ドイツ」ト、協約ガ、  
内閣ガ實際ニ組織サレル前ニ提出シタリ。又ハ  
後ニ提出シタリ。

答、ソレハ内閣ガ組織サレテカラ暫ク後デタ。

問、内閣ガ組織サレル前、此、會議ニ軍部ハ内閣ガ組  
織サレタ時ニ内閣ニ對シテ斯カル提議ナリ爲サント  
シ居ル何等ノ模範ガアリデタ。

答、イエ、彼等、決シテ秘達ニ知ラセハシムデタ。

問、陸、海軍兩大臣ガ此、種、希望及草案ヲ説  
明スル爲ニ内閣ニ他ノ團體ヲ送ルト云フハ少シ  
異例ナリガト、思ハレマデタ。

答、イエ、當時問題、此、ハ件ニ關係、局長ハ  
彼ハ絶エズ此等、人々ト相談シ居タリ。

問、所テ東條大將ハソ、内閣ニ陸軍大臣ナリタリ。  
ハ。